(iii) Agro-industries/cooperatives/marketing federations are being encouraged to come up with more pesticides formulation units and take up pesticides distribution in a big way.

(iv) Customs duty on imported pesticides and intermediate products has been progressively reduced.

Expenditure on Doubling of Railway lines

1517. SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the earnings on passenger and goods traffic during the last year zone-wise and

(b) the amount spent on doubling of the railway lines this year upto June zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The earnings on passenger and goods traffic during the last year zone-wise are as under

(Figures in crores of Rs.)

Railways	Passenger Earnings	Goods Earnings
Central	1192.03	2225.81
Eastern	644.22	1784.68
Northern	1186.10	2313.49
N.E.	330.37	219.12
N.F.	111.27	270.51
Southern	595.75	797.11
S.C.	542.30	1531.63
S.E.	403.00	3792.13
Western	1107.96	2355.92

(b) Zone-wise approximate amount spent on doubling the line under Grant No. 16 during this financial year upto June '96 is as under

(Figures in crores of Rs.)

Central	2.61
Eastern	2.94
Northern	1.08
N.E.	0.06
N.F.	0.86
Southern	3.75
S.C.	1.01
S.E.	13.67
Western	0.80

[Translation]

British Ownership of Railways Lines

1518. DR. G.R. SARODE
DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEY
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there railway lines in Vidarbha region are still owned by a British Company

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these lines were given on lease by the British Company to the Indian Railway;

(d) if so, the time by which the said lease is likely to expire

(e) the salient features of the lease agreement;

(f) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to take over these railway lines

(g) if so, the details thereof, and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) No Sir. The three Railway lines in the Vidharbha region are owned by M/s. The Central Provinces Railways Company Limited a public limited company registered under Companies Act in India. These three lines comprise of the following sections

1	Murtijapur-Yavatmal	-	113 Kms.
2	Murtijapur-Achalpur	-	77 Kms.
3	Pulagaon-Arvi	-	35 Kms.
	Total		225 Kms.

(c) No lease agreement has been executed. These lines are worked by the Central Railway as a branch line in terms of a contract entered into in 1916 and supplementary contracts between the Central Provinces Railway Company and the ex-Great Indian Peninsula Railway, as per the following terms of the agreement

1. The Central Railway as the working agency retains 45% of the gross earnings per annum towards the working expenses
2. The balance 55% of the gross earnings is treated as net earnings of these lines
3. If the net earnings are not sufficient to meet 5% of the returns on share capital invested by the Company plus Rs. 21,000/- per annum towards Management expenses, the deficit thereof is made good by the Central Railway as a Guarantee return